Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior listing of the claims in this application.

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of setting the voice personality of a voice service site, wherein a set of voice personality characterisers identified by~~associated with~~ a previously-visited voice service site and used for presenting voice output of said previously-visited voice service site, is also used in presenting [[the]]voice output of a ~~currently~~ next-visited voice service site.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the voice service sites operate by serving, from voice page servers, voice pages in the form of text with embedded voice markup tags to a voice browser, the voice browser ~~interpreting these pages and~~ carrying out ~~speech recognition of user voice input,~~ text to speech conversion to generate voice output~~, and dialog management;~~ and the voice browser being disposed between voice page servers and the user and managing which set of voice personality characterisers is used during the text to speech conversion; the set of voice personality characterisers used in presenting a voice page of the previously-visited site being identified by the latter by indications included in that page.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein text to speech conversion at the voice browser is effected using a voice tract model, said voice personality characterisers being parameter values of this model.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein text to speech conversion at the voice browser is effected by the concatenation of speech elements such as phonemes, allophones, diphones or the like, these latter forming said voice personality characterisers.

5-7 Canceled

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein <u>a user accessing said voice service sites is asked at the time of transition from the previously-visited voice site to the next-visited voice site whether</u> ~~the re-use of~~ the <u>set of</u> voice personality characterisers <u>used in presenting the output of</u> ~~from~~ the previously-visited site <u>is to be used in presenting</u> ~~with~~ the ~~currently~~<u>next</u>-visited site ~~is subject to user opt-in or opt-out~~.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein phrasing style data is associated with said set of voice personality characterisers, the voice browser using this phrasing style data to generate text, for subsequent conversion to voice output, that expresses a specified semantic meaning in a particular style matched with the voice personality defined by the voice personality characterisers.

10. (Currently amended) Apparatus comprising:
- voice-service access means for accessing different voice service sites;
- voice-service presentation means for presenting the output from an accessed voice service site using a voice set by a selected set of voice personality characterisers; and
- selection means for selecting the set of voice personality characterisers to be used by the voice-service presentation means to present the currently accessed site, the selection means being operative to enable a set of voice personality characterisers <u>identified by</u>~~associated with~~ a <u>most recent</u> previously-accessed voice service site <u>and used by the voice-service presentation means to present the output of that site,</u> to be selected for use in presenting <u>the</u>~~a~~ currently-<u>accessed</u>~~visited~~ voice service site.

11. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 10, in the form of a voice browser for handling voice pages comprising text with embedded voice markup tags, the voice-service presentation means comprising a text-to-speech converter for generating voice output according to the selected set of voice personality characterisers.

12. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the text-to-speech converter is of a type using a voice tract model, said voice personality characterisers being parameter values of this model.

13. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the text-to-speech converter is of a type that uses concatenation of speech elements such as phonemes, allophones, diphones or the like, these latter forming said voice personality characterisers.

14-16 Cancelled

17. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising ~~user input~~ means for <u>checking with a user at the time of transition from said previously-accessed voice site to said currently-accessed voice site whether</u> ~~controlling whether a~~ <u>the</u> set of voice personality characterisers <u>used in presenting the output of said</u>~~from a~~ previously-accessed site is <u>to be</u> re-used with the currently-accessed site.

18. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the voice browser includes a language generator arranged to use phrasing style data associated with the selected set of voice personality characterisers to generate text, for subsequent conversion to voice output by the text-to-speech converter, that expresses a specified semantic meaning in a particular style associated matched with a voice personality defined by the selected set of voice personality characterisers.

19-20 Canceled